Curbing emission of smoke from Government vehicles

83. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISER be pleased to state what steps have been taken by Government recently to curb emission of deadly smoke from Government vehicles, especially the buses including those of the Delhi Transport Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): The emission standards for all petrol and diesel driven vehicles notified in the Rules on 2.6.1989 under the Motor (Vehicles) Amendment Act, 1988 have come into force with effect from 1.3.1990. The Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has set up a comprehensive action plan to reduce pollution and control smoke emission from its buses. This action plan consists of:—

(i) Reducing smoke emission rate by tuning vehicle engines.

(ii) Acquiring buses for replacement of over-aged buses from the active fleet.

(iii) Reducing overloading.

(iv) Introducing buses with fuel conservative engines.

(v) Equipping the Units with Smoke Meters for monitoring smoke level of the fleet held at the Units.

Delhi Administration has launched a publicity campaign and initiated action on Government vehicles and buses of the DTC to ensure that they meet the standards notified.

Clearance of Narmada Project

84. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of State for Environment and Forests had stated in a Press conference in Baroda that she was not aware of the Environmental clearance given by the Government to the Narmada Project and that the case has not been brought before her;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Narmada Project was cleared in 1987 on all environmental aspects and that the project is being taken up by Government of Gujarat in right earnest; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue clarification that the Narmada Project is a national project and that it will not be stopped under any circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Narmada Sagar and Sardar Sarovar Projects were approved from the Environmental angle in 1987, with the proviso that requisite action plans will be prepared to be implemented *pari passu* with the engineering works. The progress made in the formulation of the environmental action plans is monitored both by the Narmada Control Authority as well as its Sub-Group on Environment specially constituted for the purpose.

No special clarification is proposed to be issued as all development projects are considered to be national projects.

Setintg up of National Defence Council

85. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up a National Defence Council;